

**AGENDA:** January 27, 2004

**8.4**

**CATEGORY:** Items Initiated by Council

**DEPT.:** City Council

**TITLE:** Child-Care Support Funds

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to investigate the feasibility of the City offering support funds to new or expanding home-based licensed family child-care centers in Mountain View.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the above recommendation. However, staff workload priorities may need to be adjusted to allow for the research necessary to assess the feasibility of such a program.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Opening a new home-based child-care center can be expensive and administratively difficult. Some cities in the San Francisco Bay Area have implemented programs to assist new or expanding child-care providers with the costs of opening or expanding a licensed center.

Some of the possible costs with which the City could help providers include:

- Home-based child-care course
- Pediatrics and CPR classes
- Fingerprinting
- Licensing application workshop
- Business of family child-care class

If the City were to assist with some of these costs, it would make it easier for those who wish to begin to provide licensed child-care. In addition, the implementation of a financial assistance program sends a clear signal that the City supports those who want to open child-care centers.

The level of financial assistance can vary. As an example, in the City of South San Francisco, each new small center can receive \$2,000 over their first three years, and each new large center can receive \$4,000 over their first three years. This program was made available for a maximum of five centers in its first pilot program year (2003) and is funded by a child-care

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The costs of administering such a program in Mountain View are not yet clear and would depend on how the program is structured.

Prepared by:

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610-01-27-04M-E^

- Attachment: 1. South San Francisco Child Care Expansion Fund  
2. January 22, 2004 Memorandum Regarding Background Information—  
Child-Care Support Funds Program Concept